



# California Crop Weather

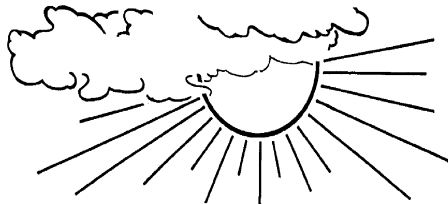
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • (916) 498-5186 FAX • [www.nass.usda.gov/ca](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca)

WEEK ENDING: April 26, 2009  
RELEASED: April 27, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 29 NO. 44

## WEATHER



A strong high pressure ridge lay over California at the start of the week, resulting in hot and dry weather for the entire state Monday and Tuesday. Daytime highs in northern California were in the 90s, while southern California saw highs in the 100s. The hot weather lasted through Tuesday. On Wednesday, a low pressure system pushed through the area, and shifted the flow over southern California and along the California coast to an onshore component, resulting in significantly cooler temperatures across those areas. The Central Valley remained warm

through midweek. By Thursday, much cooler air had also moved into the Valley, along with clouds and scattered shower activity. Rainfall amounts were generally light, and confined to the northern half of the state and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Cool weather and isolated mountain showers continued on Saturday. By Sunday, a weak high pressure ridge moved over the state, resulting in a slight warming trend under sunny skies.

## FIELD CROPS

The cutting of **winter forage** and other small grains for silage continued. Spring **wheat** seeding was underway. Winter wheat fields continued to be green chopped in preparation for **corn** planting. Corn fields continued to be planted and weed spraying was also underway. Early emerged corn plantings were showing excellent growth with the recent warm weather. **Barley** fields were starting to mature. **Rice** field planting began. Also rice fields were rolled, flooded, and a few fields were planted. The second cutting of **alfalfa** fields and baling continued. **Cotton** planting was still in progress. Weather in recent weeks caused growers to stop and start planting. The cotton crop looks good. **Potatoes** continued to be harvested.

## FRUIT CROPS

The north coast experienced excellent **pear** bloom while vineyards experienced bud break. Warm temperatures caused rapid shoot expansion in early **grape** varieties. Three days of record high temperatures caused increased growth and development rates of northern coastal **olive** trees. Olive trees in the San Joaquin Valley bloomed. Weed control continued in **prune**, **peach**, and nursery stock. **Strawberry** harvest picked up throughout the state, and fruit quality remained good. **Blueberries** began to turn color. **Cherries** matured and were almost ready for harvest in some areas. Fungicides and insecticides were applied in orchards and vineyards. Fruit set was lighter than anticipated for some stone fruit varieties. Bee hives were moved into citrus locations to make orange honey. Navel **orange** harvest was mostly complete, however, navels displayed soft fruit and drying as quality slowly declined. Valencia harvest ramped up while Minneola harvest was mostly finished. **Lemon** and **grapefruit** harvests continued as harvest was almost complete for W. Murcott and Honey **mandarins**. Harvest picked up for Pixie mandarins.

## NUT CROPS

**Pistachio** trees damaged from the April frost were replanted in the Sacramento Valley. Blight treatments continued in **walnut** orchards. High temperatures caused increased evapo-transpiration rates in orchards causing light stress to some orchards. Growers monitored soil moisture content throughout the state as well as ants, mites, and navel orangeworms in the San Joaquin Valley. **Almonds** were sizing normally. Water availability was being revised in some areas of the Central Valley.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Processing **tomato** planting continued in Sutter County. **Broccoli** and **spinach** were harvested in Stanislaus County while land was prepared for planting tomatoes, **beans** and **cantaloupes**. **Lima** and **freezer bean** plantings were expected to start in the upcoming weeks. Stockton area farmers were harvesting **asparagus** and planting tomatoes. Merced growers were reportedly planting tomatoes using drip irrigation techniques as high yields resulted from this practice last year. Early planted tomato fields in Fresno were showing their first blooms. Tulare County growers were planting and preparing vegetable beds. Harvests of **squash** and **zucchini** continued. **Bitter melon** and **camote** leaves grown in hot houses were being harvested for farmers markets. Pole **cucumbers** were making good growth gains. Bakersfield area **onions** were treated with mildew sprays and for thrips. Melons were growing nicely with some fields treated for aphids and mites. Sweet **corn**, onions and **carrots** were harvested in the Imperial Valley. The melon crop was progressing well.

## LIVESTOCK

High temperatures resulted in rapid dry down on rangeland. Additional rainfall was needed to help growth. Supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients to livestock continued. Cattle weight gains were normal as rangeland conditions were average. Bees were moved to holding areas.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/26/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/26/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/26/09	January 1 - 04/26	Week Ending 04/26/09	July 1 - 04/26/09	July 1 - 04/26	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	48	-4	58	35	0	0	0.02	27.30	35.51	37.53
Ukiah	62	5	97	37	47	0	0.00	19.19	37.35	37.96
Santa Rosa	64	6	93	41	74	0	0.00	18.48	29.52	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	4	91	47	44	0	0.00	14.23	19.56	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	83	3	--	--	14.34	14.42
Salinas AP	62	5	99	48	71	0	0.00	10.85	12.28	12.44
Monterey FAA	63	8	91	50	64	0	0.00	10.45	14.33	18.72
King City	64	5	104	39	80	0	0.00	5.75	11.76	11.44
Paso Robles AP	63	4	99	36	50	0	0.00	6.27	12.91	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	66	4	96	40	100	9	0.10	19.12	31.62	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	67	5	95	40	110	10	0.00	15.24	21.98	22.29
Chico AFS	69	8	97	40	100	3	0.00	26.48	24.77	26.32
Marysville	67	4	96	37	86	28	0.01	14.22	21.09	21.04
Sacramento AP	66	5	94	42	84	3	0.07	14.92	16.98	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	66	4	97	41	82	13	0.00	9.06	13.14	13.95
Fresno	69	6	98	43	141	40	0.00	7.15	10.58	10.60
Bakersfield	72	7	99	42	238	64	0.00	4.51	6.11	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	60	4	98	36	56	0	0.00	9.06	13.63	12.36
Santa Barbara	60	2	93	39	36	0	0.00	9.61	16.81	16.25
Ventura	61	0	95	44	154	0	0.03	9.29	14.91	14.38
Los Angeles	69	4	100	51	340	151	0.00	8.93	14.65	14.77
Riverside	69	6	103	44	274	42	0.00	4.09	10.22	9.58
San Diego AP	66	3	98	55	216	70	0.00	9.08	10.34	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	60	4	87	31	16	0	0.00	2.16	4.55	5.37
Lancaster	65	4	94	39	63	3	0.00	5.36	7.59	6.92
Daggett AP	73	6	96	49	185	137	0.00	3.80	3.98	3.93
Thermal AP	79	6	107	57	498	413	0.00	1.47	3.50	3.16
Blythe	78	4	103	57	530	441	0.00	1.82	4.01	3.60
Imperial	77	4	105	50	500	452	0.00	1.86	2.95	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	48	3	82	21	0	0	0.28	7.64	10.01	12.01
Mt. Shasta	54	7	87	31	12	0	0.19	31.93	36.58	37.02
Blue Canyon	54	8	76	29	26	0	0.25	39.19	61.83	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	26	0	0.00	16.84	35.55	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.